

S/N 10/643,578

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Applicant: | Nicholas Leventis, et al. | Examiner: | John M. Cooney |
| Serial No.: | 10/643,578 | Group Art Unit: | 1711 |
| Filed: | Aug. 18, 2003 | Docket No.: | 2416.007US1 |
| Title: | METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR PREPARING SILICA AEROGELS | | |

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

We, Nicholas Leventis and Lia Sotiriou-Leventis, declare and say as follows:

1. I, Nicholas Leventis, am a professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Missouri, Rolla.
2. I, Lia Sotiriou-Leventis, am a professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Missouri, Rolla.
3. We are named co-inventors of the subject matter claimed in the above-identified patent application and are familiar with the Office Action mailed Sept. 14, 2006, and with the prosecution history of this application, including the Response filed herewith. We hereby make this Declaration in support of the patentability of the claims of the application.
4. The Examiner has rejected all pending claims on the basis of, *inter alia*, 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Leventis et al. (2002), "Nanoengineering strong silica aerogels," *Nano letters*, **2(9)**, 957-960.
5. We are co-authors of the cited publication, and we declare that the two other co-authors, Guohui Zhang and Abdel-Monem M. Rawashdeh, were, at the time this

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invention was made, students of working under our direct supervision. They did not make independent creative contributions to the invention herein, and therefore are not inventors of the subject matter of the present patent application.

6. We further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing therefrom.

11-29-06

Date

Nicholas Leventis

Nicholas Leventis

11/29/06

Date

Lia Sotiriou-Leventis

Lia Sotiriou-Leventis